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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K. HIRAYAMA, et al.

Serial No.: 09/516,162

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For: SWITCHING SYSTEM AND SWITCHING CONTROL METHOD

Art Unit: 2661

Examiner: T. H. Phan

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.312

MS Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 January 7, 2005

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted prior to payment of the Issue Fee under 37 CFR 1.312.

Amendments to the Claims

Remarks are included following the amendments.